

Higher Education Coordination & Infrastructure

Mission

To collectively provide higher education services that meet citizens' needs, that are flexible in response to changing needs, and that do not duplicate services except where appropriate.

Summary of Activities

Indiana's system of public higher education is planned and coordinated by the **Commission for Higher Education (CHE)** in cooperation with the **Commission on Proprietary Education (COPE)**, the **Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications System (IHETS)**, and the Independent Colleges of Indiana.

The chief responsibilities of the CHE are to define institutional missions; approve new campuses or extension centers; approve new degree programs; review established degree programs; and review both operating and capital budget requests from the institutions and from the **State Student Assistance Commission**. The review of budget requests culminates in recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding public funding for Indiana higher education.



INDIANA *for* COMMISSION
HIGHER EDUCATION

COPE is charged with regulating privately owned, postsecondary career schools. It seeks to maintain and improve career schools' quality and vocational effectiveness. It is responsible for guarding against any fraudulent activity on the part of career school operators.

IHETS was created by the General Assembly in 1967 to facilitate the distribution of educational resources via communications technologies. IHETS maintains voice, video, and data networks and coordinates campus- and community-based learning centers that permit the delivery of courses across the state. Its members are Indiana's colleges and universities. Partners include K-12 schools, public libraries, state government, and public broadcasting. IHETS and its distance education component, the Indiana College Network, are managed jointly by the higher education institutions.

The state and the institutions are also members of the Midwestern Higher Education Commission (MHEC). This is a compact of nine states that seeks to assist higher education in member states through joint procurement policies, the evaluation of courseware products, and the like.

External Factors

Constantly changing demands for postsecondary access and for specific degree programs require a coordinated state-wide response. For example, economic development concerns and the need for flexible, low-cost, non-traditional educational services led to the introduction of the Community College of Indiana. The rapid spread and advancement of instructional technology challenge IHETS and the public institutions to maintain Indiana's world-class reputation. Affording essential technology improvements will be an issue throughout the foreseeable future.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

An ongoing success has been the continuing collaboration among the institutions in providing technology linkages. In addition to providing phone and data service for all Indiana campuses, IHETS provides multiple technologies for delivering access and student support through a network of 70 full-service learning centers, 300 videoconferencing sites, and over 400 satellite downlink points. The technologies most used for this purpose are the Internet, videoconferencing, and a four-channel satellite television network. IHETS installs and maintains the equipment needed for connectivity and provides 24/7 technical support. In fact, 80 percent of distance enrollments are now in online courses. The programmatic side of IHETS, including faculty and student services support, is overseen by the Indiana Partnership for State-wide Education (IPSE). IHETS also provides coordination for Indiana's Internet 2 participation as a Sponsored Education Group Participant, linking Indiana educators and learners through advanced services with experts and colleagues in 25 other states to participate in a leading edge network capability for the national research community.

Another accomplishment relates to the work of the Indiana's Articulation and transfer initiative, facilitated by CHE. The Statewide Transfer and Articulation Committee (STAC) was created in April 2000 and has representation from all public institutions and the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI).

CHE transmitted a progress report to the Legislative Council in August 2003 documenting the achievements of STAC, which include:



- Developing of a set of principles to guide statewide transfer and articulation in Indiana
- Publicizing a list of transfer coordinators for every public and ICI institution
- Facilitating full statewide articulation of the Vincennes University A.A./A.S. degrees offered at Community College of Indiana sites with every public university campus
- Cataloging 1,050 articulation agreements with public universities for Ivy Tech State College and 1,283 for Vincennes University
- Enumerating 4,259 Ivy Tech and 9,259 Vincennes courses that transfer to public university campuses throughout the state
- Identifying transfer equivalencies for the 40 most frequently taken courses
- Creating discipline sub-committees to enhance transfer for programs in business administration, computer information systems, early childhood education, and electronics technology

Plans for the Biennium

Over the biennium, IHETS will upgrade its satellite delivery system to interactive video streaming as well as digital broadcast delivery in partnership with Indiana’s public broadcasting stations. This will include upgrading more institutions to DS3 links with the Indiana Telecommunications Network (ITN) and working with Indiana and Purdue universities on I-Light2 to create the next generation ITN. IHETS has also provided leadership in developing an Indiana Learning Portal that brings together key Indiana educational providers – from K-12, higher education, libraries, public broadcasting, and cultural organizations – to create a seamless access platform for Indiana residents across the life cycle, from pre-kindergarten to senior enrichment. ICN will continue to focus on addressing secondary-to-postsecondary transitions, teacher professional development, and economic development through e-learning.

The CHE will continue the review of programs with few recent graduates. Indiana’s Statewide Articulation and Transfer Committee (STAC), facilitated by CHE, will continue to make progress in transfer and articulation options for students at all of the state’s public postsecondary institutions, including the launching of up to five additional discipline sub-committees: automated manufacturing, criminal justice, design technology (CAD), nursing (RNs and LPNs), and visual communications. In addition, STAC is working to implement a system for tracking transfer students, determining their success in subsequent coursework, and providing feedback to the institution that the student transferred from.

